

**April 17, 2013**

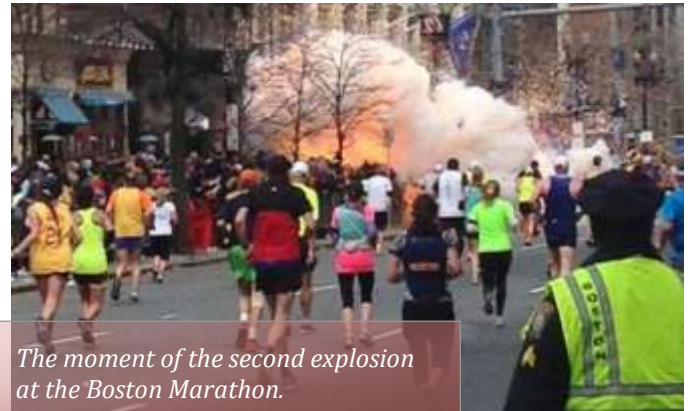
*The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.*

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### **Vigilance is the key for the NSWG (Rep. Franks)**

In the wake of a tragedy such as the explosions in Boston, MA, it is crucial that we take a moment to reflect on our duties with wisdom and empathy. Rather than jumping to any ill-informed conclusions, or comparing this terrible event to some national security policy that we have or have not properly pursued, instead, we should all remind ourselves of the precious mantle of responsibility we have to lead in the vigilance for the defense of our fellow Americans.

We do this in many ways. We pursue peace by funding our military. We fight for human dignity by debating laws which protect the innocent. We search for solutions to our nation's deepest, most troubling questions, such as how to recover when a tragedy like this occurs, and how to do more to provide safety within our borders. Most importantly, we have the job of leading this amazing nation with our commitment to the unalienable rights of every person - Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.



*The moment of the second explosion at the Boston Marathon.*

The National Security Working Group embraces the significance of a vigilant homeland defense network, an empowered and properly funded Department of Defense, and the effective cooperation of our national security leadership. During times of crisis and mourning such as these, we should all recommit ourselves to fully supporting the multiple federal, state, academic and corporate entities whom join together to protect this peaceful American landscape.

I realize I'm preaching to the choir here, but our spotlight must be fixed upon giving our full support to these national security professionals who risk their lives every day to defend our nation from vicious attacks like these. Whether it is through the funding of missile defense, pursuing protection for our energy and power grids, or seeking the best tools and training for our defense professionals and first responders - we can honor these mourning families through our work by bolstering our national security and supporting the capabilities of our national security professionals, so they have the best chance of preventing future attacks of this nature.

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### **Border Security and National Security in the Immigration Reform Discussion (Rep. Tom Cotton)**

While many of our most dangerous national-security threats are from terrorist organizations and rogue regimes targeting our interests abroad, we must remember that securing our land borders can be equally critical to protecting ourselves and our assets. A small group of Senators just released their immigration-reform bill this week. While we're all following Senate action on this legislation, we must ensure that border security is a paramount concern. With ruthless drug cartels controlling large parts of Mexico and collaborating with our enemies to attack Americans, strengthening our border to the south cannot wait. Additional border security, to include a reinforced fence, and additional border agents would make drug and human trafficking, and organized criminal activity in general, in the border region more difficult and dangerous.

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*Border Security and National Security in the Immigration Reform Discussion (Rep. Cotton)*

With 42 million foreign-born residents in the United States, our country has the honorable distinction of having more immigrants than any other nation. Unfortunately, the U.S. also has the dubious distinction of the world's largest population of illegal immigrants, and it is estimated that more than half are from Mexico. Most of these illegal immigrants come to the U.S. for employment opportunities, but a growing number are involved in illicit activity along the border. An insufficient number of border-patrol agents and an incomplete fence make the area ideal for drug smugglers. Fences work—they worked in San Diego, CA and Israel, and they will work on our border. In the early 1990s, approximately 600,000 people attempted to illegally cross the border near San Diego. But after the construction of a fence and deployment of additional border patrol agents, that number dropped to just 153,000 in 2007. We need boots on the ground and advanced technologies to help reinforce the border fence already being built. Border security must be the cornerstone to any immigration-reform initiatives; our national security depends on it.



***Border security must be the cornerstone to any immigration-reform initiatives.***

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*Each NSWG Item reflects the position and view of the authoring office. Questions or comments regarding the NSWG can be directed to:*

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